

Proverbs Lesson 18

Proverbs Chapter 18

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Website: <http://www.kjvbiblestudies.net>

Email: mail@kjvbiblestudies2.net

Introduction: Proverbs Chapter continues the contrast between wisdom and folly. The verses often are parallelisms and there are few related thoughts. This chapter is basically a list of various proverbial truths.

I. Fools Have No Delight in Understanding

(Pro 18:1) Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

(Pro 18:2) A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

Though somewhat oblique in its presentation, the thought is essentially this. One who desires wisdom will separate himself from the frivolities of life to seek wisdom wherever he can find it. Learning and the development of Godly wisdom often means making significant decisions in life.

Many are influenced to attend institutions that teach erroneous doctrine. There are those who seek counsel and join hard to a solid local New Testament Church.

In contrast to the thought of verse 1, fools are uninterested in true understanding. They are more concerned about being seen and noticed by others. How often the world's crowd is most interested in outward appearance and popularity but have no real interest in wisdom, truth, or understanding. Such are fools, and the world is full of them.

(Pro 18:3) When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.

(Pro 18:4) The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

When godless persons come into influence of leadership, there is nothing but scandal, trouble, and corruption. Witness the blackened aftermath of corrupt politicians or leaders in any arena.

The context of verse 4 indicates that the thought is a positive one. Deep waters in the Middle East are cool and refreshing waters are the cold and sparkling

waters of a flowing brook. The words of a (wise) man's mouth can be a source of spiritual refreshment and wisdom. It depends on the spiritual condition of the heart. Out of the mouths of fools comes corruption. Out of the mouths of wise men comes wisdom.

(Pro 18:5) It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

The warning is of accepting the testimony or witness of one known as wicked in a judicial proceeding. Those who are known to lack good character are not reliable witnesses. Therefore, it is not wise to accept their accusations against a righteous person.

The ultimate fulfillment of this was the slanderers who brought charges against Jesus when He stood before the Jewish authorities prior to His crucifixion. The persons of the wicked were certainly accepted then to overthrow the righteous One in judgment.

**(Pro 18:6) A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.
(Pro 18:7) A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.**

Fools are prone to quarrel and then challenge others to a fight. Clearly implied is that the wise do the exact opposite. Wise men will seek to reconcile a difference and avoid conflict. Fools do not.

A fool will bring ruin down upon himself with his mouth. Fools shoot off their mouths. Accordingly, fools rain trouble upon their own head by their mouths. The wise tend to avoid both.

**(Pro 18:8) The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.
(Pro 18:9) He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.**

A talebearer is a gossip. Gossip by definition is talking about others behind their backs. The tragic thing is that such gossip can cause deep hurt to others. There are few terms lower than being called a talebearer.

He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster in verse 9. The word translated as slothful (hpr raphah) has the sense in this context and construct (Hithpael) of being 'lazy' or a 'slacker.' One who is lazy or slacks-off at work is closely related to one who is wasteful.

Woe be to a Christian who is considered a slacker or slothful by his employer. It is a terrible testimony. A slothful self-employed person will never amount to

much and is a poor testimony as well.

(Pro 18:10) The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

(Pro 18:11) The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.

(Pro 18:12) Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

In Old Testament times, a strong tower was a fortress to which the local population could find refuge in times of war or invasion. The point is that the name of the Lord is a place of strong refuge. Those truly righteous will make their refuge in the Lord and He will protect them. See Psalm 18:2.

Psa 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

In contrast to the righteous who take refuge in the Lord, many of the rich of this world take refuge in their own wealth and conceit. One trusts in the Lord. The other trusts in his own resources. Pride goes before destruction. Those who trust in their own selves and their own resources are headed for a fall. Moreover, their fall is often complete destruction.

On the other hand, humility precedes honor. Pride grates and attracts no friends. Humility is universally accepted and honored. Pride repels. Humility attracts.

(Pro 18:13) He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

(Pro 18:14) The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

To react to a problem before hearing the whole matter results in foolish decisions and embarrassment. Good judgment hears both sides of a dispute in their entirety before coming to a decision. Fools, rather, fly off the handle after hearing only one side.

The thought in verse 14 is how that the spirit of a man will sustain him in his health problem. A strong desire to overcome major disease can be effective. However, when one's spirit is wounded, he often gives up. The thought shifts from physical infirmity to that of emotions and feelings. Hurt feelings are difficult to deal with.

Here is a word of wisdom. Hurt feelings however are always in the realm of the flesh and reflect immaturity. Spiritual and mature Christians don't allow their feelings to be hurt. They don't wallow in such folly. To be sure, things may be

said or happen that disappoint or exasperate, but mature Christians will not allow such to offend them.

II. Heart of the Prudent Gets Knowledge

(Pro 18:15) The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

(Pro 18:16) A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

(Pro 18:17) He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

Those who are prudent and wise seek after knowledge and learning. Fools rather seek after entertainment and amusement.

Gifts to others tend to open opportunities the bible teaches in verse 16. The thought is not of bribes, but of being thoughtful. People tend to think well of those who are thoughtful and considerate. The thoughtful get recommended and receive opportunities.

A truth emerges in verse 17. People tend to defend themselves as being right in a controversy. But a third party can come to a more unbiased decision.

(Pro 18:18) The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.

(Pro 18:19) A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

When a controversy seems unresolvable, a flip of the coin or a drawing of straws (i.e., a lot) can at times resolve the problem. Those at odds with each other can thus be sent on their ways with some sense of resolution.

Weak and carnal Christians are prone to take offence in verse 19. In such cases, it is harder to win them back than an army capturing a hostile city. Their contentions become like the bars of a castle gate—difficult to overcome. Weak and carnal Christians are easily offended or develop hurt feelings. (See also 18:14b.)

They are very difficult to reconcile. One moral is to be careful so as to not offend others unnecessarily—especially those who are weak spiritually. It is better to nurture them to the point where they will outgrow such foolishness.

(Pro 18:20) A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with

the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

(Pro 18:21) Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Again, the context clearly is that of a wise man. One wise and judicious in the use of his mouth will advance in life. See also Proverbs 12:14 and 13:2.

Pro 13:2 A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

The converse has been clearly developed as well. Those who use their mouths foolishly will reap nothing but trouble and poverty. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Great good or great evil is in the power of what we say.

We can bring great blessing in life with wise use thereof. We can bring ruin and even an untimely death by how we shoot off our mouth. There is wisdom in being discreet and saying as little as possible. However, those who love to talk will reap the fruit of the tongue. It invariably is bitter.

I have been reading a super book called Prayer – The Mightiest Force in the World by Frank Laubach. Being a missionary, he has learned a lot about talking with the Lord. He talks about how he uses his voice to speak to the Lord to pray for random people he meets daily.

Laubach believes interceding in behalf of people that we do not even know carries blessings to those to whom he prays for. The bible teaches us to be constant in prayer, so we know God would have us to keep our minds on the Lord.

(Pro 18:22) Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

(Pro 18:23) The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

A virtuous wife is a wonderful blessing from God. See Proverbs 31:10.

Pro 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

The thought at hand is a reflection upon the cruel realities of life. Those in poverty must beg for assistance. In contrast, the affluent are often arrogant and harsh. God has respect to the one and disdains the other.

(Pro 18:24) A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Two wonderful thoughts conclude this chapter. Those who have friends must take the initiative and be friendly first. Friendliness develops friendships. There is a friend who is better than any brother. That Friend is the Lord Jesus. He is the

greatest friend of all.

KJV Bible Studies are prepared and distributed free of charge. The lessons may not be sold without consent. If you have questions or wish to discuss the lessons, or possibly need help in finding Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior, contact us at email below.

Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Website: <http://www.kjvbiblestudies.net>

Email: mail@kjvbiblestudies2.net

Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.